

East Brunswick Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
December 17, 2024

Attendees:

Dr. Joyce Boley	Karen Parry, Library Director
Wayne Christie (arr. 7:15 pm)	Maria Carmelo, Executive Administrative Assistant
Lisa Gurevich	Adam Abramson, Library Labor Attorney
Joseph Palombit	April Yu, Teen Representative
Patricia Palumbo	
Colleen Talbot	

Ms. Palumbo called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. A roll call was made and a quorum was present. Ms. Palumbo stated that the meeting was advertised and the Open Public Meetings Act requirements were met.

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of November 19, 2024:

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024 meeting. Dr. Boley seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Boley, Ms. Gurevich and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: Mr. Palombit and Ms. Palumbo.

Public Participation:

Ms. Yu presented the Teen Report. TAG held their first ever Group Volunteering Day in November, with 22 volunteers shelving and organizing adult fiction, non-fiction and children's books. 37 teens continued volunteering in the Circulation Department and an additional 22 teen volunteers held events such as Myer's Young Writers Group, which will continue monthly for grades 8 through 12, Alec's Cool Science Stories & Experiments and Lilian's Pokémon Club. The Young Adult Book Club also held an event welcoming local YA author, Jen Doktorski.

The EB Friends of the Library were unable to attend tonight's meeting. President Deborah LeSeur sent a message to let everyone know that the Friends are busy planning events for next year and to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

There was no Foundation Report.

Ms. Talbot presented the Township Report. State health benefits are increasing by 17%, however, township health benefits are increasing by only 1% since the township is self-insured. This is the 8th year in a row that benefits have only increased by 1% or less. Township meetings will resume after the New Year. Mayor Cohen would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

Dr. Boley presented the School District Report. Dr. Boley has been working with Ms. Parry to incorporate the Robotics Club into Maker Day's at the library in March. Dr. Boley is also

working with Ms. Parry to connect High School students to Tutor.com. The Winter Concert season has begun and Winter Recess begins this Friday, with schools reopening on January 2nd.

There were no public comments.

Closed Session:

Dr. Boley made a motion to enter closed session at 7:15 pm. Mr. Palombit seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

The Board returned to open session at 7:35 pm.

Financial Report:

In the Financial Report, Ms. Parry shared that the library budget is 87% expended for 2024 and she is working closely with the library management team and township Finance Department on the 2025 budget, which is expected to come in at or close to the prior year's number.

Mr. Christie made a motion to approve the December 18, 2024 Bill List. Mr. Palombit seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees:

There were no reports of standing or special committee reports.

Director's Report:

Ms. Parry presented the November 2024 Director's Report. The library hosted a table at the Township Winter Wonderland. Library staff put together a Community Cookbook and a craft table. 750 children visited the library and crafts were purchased by the Friends of the Library. ParentTV is now available on the library website. The multilingual service is free and offers hundreds of on demand videos and courses to parents and caregivers. The library hosted a vaccine clinic in partnership with Parlin Pharmacy, whose staff administered several hundred vaccines. Some winter programs included a Holiday Singalong with piano player Laurie Gold and Holiday Harmony Around the World by the Old Bridge Symphonic Band. The library also hosted a Hanukkah Story and Craft event as well as Holiday Card Making with Care One. NJ4S staff hosted a Holiday Hot Cocoa Party, focusing on self-care activities for families with children in kindergarten and up. This program, along with others, tie into the Mayor's Mental Health Initiative "MENTAL HEALTH IS HEALTH!". Ms. Parry is a member of the Mental Health Task Force, whose goal is to remove the stigma of mental health by posting signs and bookmarks with QR codes which provide mental health and wellness resources and adding the initiative's

logo to all library health and wellness programs. Ms. Parry will also be meeting with St. Peter's University Hospital and RWJ Hospital in 2025.

Dr. Boley made a motion to approve the November 2024 Director's Report. Ms. Talbot seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Old Business:

There was no old business.

New Business:

Resolution #10,874

CNA Ratification

WHEREAS, the East Brunswick Public Library ("Library") and the Communications Workers of America Union ("CWA") have been negotiating the terms to a new collective negotiations agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Library and the Union have negotiated and agreed upon the terms to a collective negotiations agreement attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the CWA has ratified and executed the collective negotiations agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Library Board of Trustees ("the Board") is desirous of ratifying the collective negotiations agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the East Brunswick Public Library Board of Trustees that the collective negotiations agreement between the East Brunswick Public Library and CWA Local 1031 for the period from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027 is hereby ratified.

Ms. Talbot made a motion to approve Resolution #10,874 – CNA Ratification. Ms. Gurevich seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Resolution #10,875

CWA Settlement Agreement

WHEREAS, Communications Workers of America, Local 1031 ("the Union") and the East Brunswick Public Library ("the Library") have completed negotiations for a first collective negotiations agreement ("CNA"), which includes a settlement of an unfair practice charge; and

WHEREAS, the Library Board of Trustees ("the Board") has been afforded an opportunity to review the Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Union has executed the Settlement Agreement on November 20, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board as follows:

- 1). The Board hereby agrees to and ratifies the Settlement Agreement dated November 20, 2024;
and
- 2). The Board President and/or his designee is hereby directed to execute the Settlement Agreement dated November 20, 2024.
- 3). That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Dr. Boley made a motion to approve Resolution #10,875 – CWA Settlement Agreement. Ms. Gurevich seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

Closed Session:

Mr. Palombit made a motion to enter Closed Session at 8:06 pm. Ms. Talbot seconded. Voting yes: Dr. Boley, Mr. Christie, Ms. Gurevich, Mr. Palombit, Ms. Palumbo and Ms. Talbot. Voting no: None. Abstaining: None.

The Board returned to open session at 8:18 pm.

Information Items:

There were no information items.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Mr. Palombit made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 pm. Ms. Talbot seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Wayne Christie, Secretary